

Aviation Lessons Learned Integration (L2I)

What is it?

The purpose of L2I is to establish a system for the collection, analysis, archiving and dissemination of Observation, Insight and Lesson (OIL); Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP); After Action Reviews (AAR), and lessons learned from actual operations, experiments and training events to the Army Lessons Learned Program. The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) L2I Branch was established in 2006 as a section in the Directorate of Training and Doctrine's (DOTD) Tactics Division in order to meet these goals.

What has Army Aviation done?

The L2I Branch collects, analyzes, archives and disseminates relevant information gained from OIL either passively or actively collected. Examples of passive OIL collections are Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPR) or Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPR) e-mail submissions, phone calls from the field, unit After Action Reviews (AARs) and Battle Action Summaries, and papers submitted via the Military Education System (Aviation Captains' Career Course (CCC), Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC) and the NCO Academy (NCOA). Active collections are usually performed either in theater or at a unit's home station after deployment. Analysis of the OIL takes place at DOTD with the information evaluated for action. Items designated for hasty dissemination/integration have resulted in posts on the USAACE/DOTD SIPR/NIPR Web sites, messages to the field, short Field Manual (FM) changes and articles in the Tactics Division Newsletter. All OIL not acted upon are archived for future reference with many released as downloadable files on the USAACE/DOTD SIPR/NIPR Web portals.

The Tactics Division Newsletter is a bimonthly publication managed by the L2I Branch focused on providing Warfighters with timely and relevant lessons learned information. Written at the unclassified level for widest dissemination, the newsletter contains today's information for tomorrow's fight. The newsletter is accessible through the USAACE/DOTD Web portal, Army Knowledge Online, and is also pushed to all the aviation brigade and battalion commanders.

Additionally, the L2I Branch provides rapid responses to direct questions from the field. These questions come in the form of Requests for Information (RFIs) and can be classified or unclassified in nature. Our Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) representative fields multiple RFIs each week usually with a 24-hour average turnaround.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

Knowledge Management is the key. The better organized and more accessible we make important, relevant information to the Warfighters, the better it is for them. We continually look for more updated information from both inside the Army and from outside sources such as the Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned (MCCLL) to ensure we are identifying the latest and most effective Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) to pass on. We are also planning to accept Unclassified OIL submissions via the USAACE/DOTD NIPR portal to match our current SIPR

capabilities. This will allow better access to the Warfighters who have unclassified questions needing to be answered, but lack SIPR access.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

By rapid sharing of techniques that work in the field, L2I insures that Soldiers and leaders in harm's way do not have to 'reinvent the wheel' each time they do a mission. We must continue to generate and apply creative solutions faster and more effectively than our enemies can generate adaptive dilemmas and challenges. Additionally, we must continue to seek ways to enable the decision-making process and our aviation leadership. Knowledge refinement, complete use of L2I resources, and dialog with the appropriate subject matter experts at the Aviation Center of Excellence will enable us to generate solutions and capabilities faster and more effectively than our enemy. This becomes more significant as we look to the future of the Global War on Terrorism and as we continue our transformation. Our willingness and effectiveness in sharing lessons learned will enable those Warfighters who follow to be more proficient and safer, and to rapidly ensure that aviation remains ready for any test.

As of: 22 Mar 2010